

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Friday
February 28, 2014

Briefly

Kindergarten roundup Monday

Eisenhower Elementary will be holding its annual Kindergarten Roundup on Monday, March 3, at 5 p.m. The meeting will be in the school cafeteria and will last approximately 30 to 40 minutes. Students must have turned five on or before August 31 to be eligible for Kindergarten. This meeting is for parents only.

Wellness program offered Tuesday

The Norton County Health Department in conjunction with Dr. Martin Griffey will hold a free Wellness Program at 7 p.m. on Tuesday in the basement of Prairie Land Electric building. The topic covered will be understanding lab test results.

Veterans get help with their claims

Jody Tubbs of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be in Norton from 10:45 until 11:45 a.m., at the Norton County Library to assist veterans and their dependents with VA claims work on Tuesday, March 4. If you are unable to contact Ms. Tubbs at that time, you may contact her in Colby any Monday, Wednesday or Friday at 785-462-3572.

Early dismissal set for Wednesday

USD 211 will dismiss school at 1 p.m. on Wednesday for teacher training. School will resume its regular hours Thursday morning at 8:30 a.m.

Fundraiser set for this Thursday

There will be a potato bar fundraiser for Caleb Vanover, grandson of John Whitney, on Thursday, March 6 from 5-7 p.m. at the Norton Senior Center. Free will offering. Carryout orders available.

Markets

FEBRUARY, 2014

Wheat\$6.42
Milo.....\$4.20
Soybeans.....\$13.49
Corn.....\$4.35
Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Saturday - Cloudy with a high of 14. Saturday Night - Periods of light snow with a low of 1 degree. 40 percent chance of snow. Sunday - Light snow during the morning tapering to snow showers in the afternoon. High of 8 degrees. Sunday Night - Partly cloudy with a low of -3 degrees.

Prayer

Thank you, God, for lifting our burdens and giving rest to our souls. Help us to fix our eyes on you, through Jesus Christ, whose sacrifice gives us peace. Amen.

BB Gun Team takes first at 4-H Regionals

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team started their 2014 year competition in a championship way on Saturday, Feb. 22 by running away with the title in the Logan County 4-H Regional BB Gun Shoot in Oakley.

Norton County won the championship with a total score of 1421 and 31 bull's eyes by their top four shooters in the prone, standing, sitting and kneeling positions.

Thomas County was runner-up with a score of 1355-26x, which was 66 points behind. Third place went to Phillips/Rooks Counties with a 1349-26x, followed by Golden Prairie (Logan, Trego, Gove Counties), 1331-27x; Rawlins County, 1242-16x; Ellis County, 1219-20x; Sheridan County, 1006-10x.

Team scores were comprised of the top four shooting scores for each team.

Marksmen competed in either the 7 to 9 year old, 10 to 11 year old or 12 to 14 year old category. All shooters who scored at least a 325 shooting score qualified for the State 4-H BB Gun Shoot to be held on Saturday, April 12 in Alma.

Norton had nine state qualifiers out of 15 who entered. The top shooter for any age was first time marksman Lily David of Norton County with an 89 prone, 88 standing, 94 sitting, 91 kneeling for a total score of 362x7 in the 10-11 age group.

Second high scorer from Norton County and the top shooter in the 12-14 age group was Stacie Elliott with a 90 prone, 84 standing, 92 sitting, 90, kneeling for a total of 356x10.

Dylan Goss of Norton County, also in the 12-14 category, was second high shooter behind Stacie with an 84 prone, 90 standing, 90 sitting, 91 kneeling, 355x7.

Norton County's Christien Hawks shot fourth best in the 10-11 category with a 92 prone, 78 standing, 87 sitting, 86 kneeling, 343x4.

In the 12-14 category and placing seventh was Miles Harrington with an



Fifteen members of the Norton Rotary BB Gun team competed at the 4-H Regional shoot last Saturday in Oakley. The team brought home a first place win against six other teams. The second shooter from the front is Lily David being coached by head coach Jeff Elliot. The fifth shooter is Nick Davis and the eighth is Althea Paxton being coached by Marty Harrington.

— Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

89 prone, 80 standing, 91 sitting, 88 kneeling for a total of 348x7.

Norton County's Connor Hall, a first year shooter, placed eighth in the 12-14 category with an 87 prone, 86 standing, 85 sitting, 86 kneeling for a total of 344x6.

Nick Davis of Norton County finished 11th in the older category with an 88 prone, 71 standing, 82 sitting, 86 kneeling for a total of 327x2.

Placing sixth in the 10-11 category was Norton County's Riley Goss with an 88 prone, 75 standing, 88 sitting,

80 kneeling for a total of 331x6 and Norton County's Tia Paxton was right behind Riley with a 92 prone, 73 standing, 84 sitting, 81 kneeling, for a total of 330x5.

Also competing in the 10 to 11 year old category but not qualifying for the state shoot were Nathan Nelson and Catherine Hall. Nathan shot an 84 prone, 73 standing, 85 sitting, 73 kneeling for a 315x3 total and Catherine shot an 85 prone, 71 standing, 79 sitting, 70 kneeling for a total of 305x2.

Aaron Blair shot for Norton in the

12-14 age group and just missed a state qualifying score. He shot a 77 prone, 79 standing, 84 sitting, 82 kneeling for a total of 322x1.

Three marksmen competed for Norton County in the 7-9 age group but were also unable to qualify for the upcoming state shoot.

Miles Goss was 11th best in that category with the following score: 82 prone, 60 standing, 76 sitting, 72 kneeling, total 290x2; followed by Derian

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Meeting held for school bond issue

BY MIKE STEPHENS

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About a hundred people attended the U.S.D. 211 School Board's community meeting on Sunday at the East Campus Auditorium to discuss the upcoming bond issue election set for April 1.

The meeting was broadcast live on KQNK Radio, as Superintendent Greg Mann explained to the crowd the reasoning for the bond election, why the money is needed and how it will be spent.

The school board has recommended a bond issue amount of \$14,825,000 for numerous proposed capital improvement projects at the high school, junior high and elementary schools, and other district properties. The bond issue is based on a 20 year payback. The proposed 2014 bonds will require a mill levy estimated at 14.99 mills. A mill is a \$1 tax on each \$1,000 of assessed valuation of property located in District 211. In other words, if you own a \$75,000 home your estimated tax increase will be \$10.77 per month or \$129.29 per year.

"There is never a good time to raise taxes," said Mann, but he pointed out that there is a window of opportunity that may not be available later. At present, state finance formula allows additional state aid to pay 33 percent of the project cost and interest cost on a voted bond issue. The total state aid benefit (both principal and interest) is estimated at \$7,558,000, which would come from Topeka to help pay off the bonds. Mann said Governor Brownback has proposed an end to this state aid program for future bond issues, so now may be the last opportunity to take advantage of this program that offers to pay one-third of the cost. Without the current state aid assistance the proposed

Norton U.S.D. No. 211 \$14,825,000 Bond Issue Tax Effect			
Type of Property	Estimated Assessed Valuation	Proposed Bond Tax Yearly	Increase at 14.99 Mills Monthly
\$50,000 Home*	\$5,750	\$86.19	\$7.18
\$75,000 Home*	\$8,625	\$129.29	\$10.77
\$100,000 Home*	\$11,500	\$172.39	\$14.37
160 Acres Dryland Farm**	\$5,232	\$78.43	Yearly Cost/Acre \$0.49
160 Acres Irrigated Farm**	\$9,792	\$146.78	Yearly Cost/Acre \$0.92
160 Acres Pasture**	\$812	\$12.17	Yearly Cost/Acre \$0.08
\$50,000 Commercial Prop.***	\$12,500	\$187.38	\$15.61
\$100,000 Commercial Prop.***	\$25,000	\$374.75	\$31.23

projects would require an additional 7.38 mills. Also, today's interest rates, estimated at 4.25 percent for 20-year bonds, are near historically low levels of the past 50 years, according to Steve Shogren, district bondsman.

Mann said the proposed projects are necessary because education requirements have changed. Programs such as Title I Reading and Math, Special Education, At-Risk support, speech and language services, and physical and occupational therapy did not exist when the current buildings were constructed. All of these programs are required to be offered if there are students who qualify.

Privacy is also an issue. Schools operate under Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) guidelines, which require more space and privacy, because schools are being required to provide more and more medical services.

Mann said that the expectations of parents have changed over the last 20 to 25 years. He said that families have

gotten smaller and that expectations for personal space and individual attention have increased.

The emphasis in education has greatly changed in the last 20 years, as well, according to Mann. The focus now is on the academic growth of an individual student and not the collective. "This has triggered a fundamental shift in how instruction, especially at the grade school level, is delivered," said Mann.

He also said that enrollment in the district has remained relatively steady. From 1982 to 1992, the average U.S.D.

211 enrollment was 761 students. The average full-time enrollment in the 20 years since 1992 is 716, which according to Mann, is closer to a head count of 730, based on how the state counts kindergarteners.

The last bond issue election in Norton, U.S.D. 211, was May 1974 for the construction of the current high school which required 12 mills and a 15-year re-payment schedule.

By State law, property tax is the only way schools can raise funds.

All residents of U.S.D. 211 who are of legal voting age and who are registered to vote by March 11, 2014 will be able to vote on the bond issue. This includes the residents of Clayton, Edmond, Lenora, Norton, New Almelo and those who live in the rural areas outside of those communities. The election is scheduled for April 1, 2014 at the Norton County Courthouse.

For more information go to www.usd211.org and select Building Project.

The following is a list of the proposed improvements:

- EES Projects
- Controlled access entry.
- Multi-purpose/gymnasium + FEMA rated storm shelter.

(Meeting - Continued on Page 5)

Logan man dies in house fire

A Logan man died in a residential fire early Saturday morning. The Logan Fire Department responded to a call of a structure fire at a residence at 305 West North Street in Logan. When fire crews arrived, a good portion of the residence was fully engulfed in flames. Firefighters put out the blaze and conducted rescue

operations. It was at that time crews discovered the body of Mark L. Runion, 45, of Logan who succumbed to injuries from being in the home at the time of the fire. The fire is being investigated by the Phillips County Sheriff's Department and the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office.

